

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Amend paragraph [0001], on page 2, as follows:

[0001] This is a divisional of U.S. Serial No. 10/316,614, filed December 11, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 6,732,798, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/797,209, filed March 1, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,598,682, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial Nos. 60/186,500, filed March 2, 2000; 60/187,900, filed March 8, 2000; and 60/252,754, filed November 22, 2000; and U.S. Serial No. 10/316,614 is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/620,980, filed July 21, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,554,081.

Amend paragraph [0050], on page 12, as follows:

[0050] Alternatively, a porous slurry can be pumped down and around the gun; in such a scenario, the restriction on size is not a limitation on how much porous material can be placed around the gun. Thus, for example, in Figure 1, the area of the wellbore 54 around the gun 56 is filled with the porous slurry pumped down the tubing 52 and around the gun system 56.

Amend paragraph [0054], beginning on page 13, as follows:

[0054] Referring to Fig. 8, a tool string having a sealed atmospheric container 510 (or container having an inner pressure that is lower than an expected pressure in the wellbore in the interval of the formation 512) is lowered into a wellbore (which is lined with casing 524) and placed adjacent a perforated formation 512 to be treated. The tool string is lowered on a carrier line 522 (e.g., wireline, slickline, coiled tubing, etc.). The container 510 includes a chamber that is filled with a gas (e.g., air, nitrogen) or other fluid. The container 510 has a sufficient length to treat the entire formation 512 and has multiple ports ~~16~~ 516 that can be opened up using explosives.

Amend paragraph [0064], beginning on page 16, as follows:

[0064] The tool string of Fig. 10 also includes a second chamber 124 624. The control module 126 626 may also include a flow control device 127 627 (e.g., a valve) to control communication of well fluids from the first chamber 114 614 to the second chamber 124 624. During creation of the underbalance condition, the flow control device 127 627 is closed.

Amend paragraph [0065], on page 17, as follows:

[0065] Referring to Fig. 11, yet another embodiment for creating an underbalance condition during a perforating operation is illustrated. A perforating gun string 700 includes a perforating gun 702 and a carrier line 704, which can be a slickline, a wireline, or coiled tubing. In one embodiment, the perforating gun 702 is a hollow carrier gun having shaped charges 714 inside a chamber 718 of a sealed housing 716. In the arrangement of Fig. 11, the perforating gun 702 is lowered through a tubing 706. A packer 710 (not shown) is provided around the tubing 706 to isolate the interval 712 in which the perforating gun 702 is to be shot (referred to as the “perforating interval 712”). A pressure P_w is present in the perforating interval 712.